

Toxics Steering Group Meeting Summary

February 25, 2009

Attendees

Shannon Briggs, WB, DEQ
Christina Rose Bush, DCH
Dennis Bush, WB, DEQ
Gary Butterfield, AQD, DEQ
Linda Dykema, DCH
Christine Flaga, RRD, DEQ
Kay Fritz, WHMD, DEQ
Jennifer Gray, DCH
Kory Groetsch, DCH
Ryan Holem, AQD, DEQ

Mary Lee Hultin, AQD, DEQ
Doreen Lang, AQD, DEQ
Amy Perbeck, WB, DEQ
Lisa Quiggle, DCH
Divinia Ries, RRD, DEQ
Amy Salsbury, RRD, DEQ
Robert Sills, Chair, AQD, DEQ
Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, DEQ
Emily Weingartz, Librarian, WB, DEQ

1. New staff - AQD has two new Toxicologists: Ryan Holem and Doreen Lang.
2. News from the Executive Office: Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, provided an update on DEQ budget issues, the reorganization of ESSD, Executive Directive No. 2009-2 (Consideration of Feasible and Prudent Alternatives in the Processing of Air Permit Applications from Coal-Fired Power Plants), and proposed changes to the TSG Policy and Procedures.
3. RRD Cleanup and Redevelopment Program Redesign – Chris Flaga discussed the ongoing efforts to redesign the Part 201 program, with an emphasis on the potential changes to the cleanup criteria. This effort began in 2006 to address concerns such as program flexibility and implementation, and liability, and to help gain support for a new bond to fund the program. With regard to the risk-based cleanup criteria, proposals under discussion for the redesign include: establishing two land-use categories (residential and non-residential); retaining the methodology for deriving cleanup criteria in the Rules while removing the criteria from the rules; establishing a schedule for updating the criteria; updating the methodology for assessing the vapor intrusion pathway; combining the direct contact and ambient air equations; and, developing a methodology for assessing acute toxicity. Updates on the progress of this initiative will be provided at future TSG meetings. The proposed program revisions should be finalized in 2010, prior to a November 2010 ballot issue for the funding of the program.
4. Earth Day 2009 Planning - Kay Fritz is coordinating the TSG participation in the April 22 Earth Day event, dubbed “Toxic World”. Volunteers and ideas are needed for “toxicology-related” activities focusing on air quality, land issues, water quality, fish consumption advisories, and multimedia issues.

5. Human Biomonitoring – Linda Dykema discussed a DCH effort to obtain grant funding for a biomonitoring project. Feedback from TSG was sought with regard to the list of proposed substances for analysis in blood or urine.
6. DEQ Internet site for Pollutants and Toxicants – Amy Perbeck (and Divinia Ries and Mary Lee Hultin) discussed their efforts to update the information and links available at this website. The draft changes are available for TSG review and comment prior to finalization.
7. Manganese Particulate Soil Inhalation Criteria (PSIC) – The Final Report of the “TSG Subcommittee for the Application of the Mn PSIC in the Detroit Area” was presented and discussed. The Subcommittee members (Kay Fritz (chair), Divinia Ries, Christina Bush, Dave Mason (AQD modeler) and Robert Sills) presented a PowerPoint overview of the key issues and recommendations. This was a relatively large effort which began in May 2006. The Subcommittee identified and evaluated key toxicity studies of manganese and the varied use of those studies by regulatory agencies in risk assessments; updated the dispersion modeling for the PSIC; developed modifying factors for source area sizes; recommended removal of a 2-fold adjustment factor for the Mn PSIC derivation; and updated the vehicular erosion emission equations. The Subcommittee also raised for management consideration the issues of potentially incorporating a relative source contribution factor and of addressing vehicular erosion emissions via different default and site-specific approaches. The Subcommittee also provided comparisons between the resulting Mn PSIC criteria and the values developed by other States and EPA Regions. Following discussion, the Subcommittee requested that further comments from TSG be submitted by March 4, 2009. Comments would be addressed and the report finalized soon after.